MULTIMEDIA UNIVERSITY

STUDENT ID NO

MULTIMEDIA UNIVERSITY

FINAL EXAMINATION

TRIMESTER 1, 2019/2020

BCT1024 – CRITICAL THINKING AND APPLICATION IN MANAGEMENT

(All sections / Groups)

12th OCTOBER 2019
9.00 a.m. – 11.00 a.m.
(2 Hours)

INSTRUCTIONS TO STUDENTS:

1. This question paper consists of **TWO** parts and **12** pages (excluding the cover page).

2. Answer ALL questions.
   - Part A : Multiple Choice Questions (40 marks)
   - Part B : Analytical questions
     - Question 1: Short Essay (10 marks)
     - Question 2: Fallacy identification (10 marks)
     - Question 3: Argument composition (20 marks)
     - Question 4: Problem solving (20 marks)

3. The total mark for this paper is 100 marks. This final examination will contribute 50% toward your grade in this course.

PART A: MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS (40 MARKS)

Answer ALL questions. Mark your answers on the OMR sheet.

1. Which of the following statements is TRUE?

   I. Critical thinking requires the ability to manage emotions such as anger, frustration and anxiety.
   II. Wishful thinking means being open-minded, impartial, and free of distorting biases and preconceptions.
   III. When we use the word "critical" in reference to critical thinking, we mean "negative and fault-finding."
   IV. Critical thinking helps us to come up with new ideas.

   a. I and III
   b. II and IV
   c. III and IV
   d. I only

2. Judy has a tendency to behave in the following manner:

   - Agreeing with others because she does not want to stand out alone.
   - Not voicing her opinion because she is worried that other people might think it is not a good idea.
   - Afraid to ask questions when no one else is because she doesn't want to feel or be seen as dumb.

   Based on the above description, which barrier to critical thinking is faced by Judy?

   a. Conformity
   b. Fair-mindedness
   c. Egocentricism
   d. Prejudice

Continued....

3. Do not look directly at the sun. Its ultraviolet (UV) and infrared radiation can be catastrophic—it can literally can burn a hole in your retina, leading to blindness. (David H. Levy, "Look for the Solar Eclipse")
The above paragraph is a/an:

   a. nonargument; explanation
   b. nonargument; summary
   c. argument; conclusion: Do not look directly at the sun.
   d. argument; conclusion: Ultraviolet and infrared radiation can be catastrophic.

4. Which of the following passages contain arguments?

   I. He must be home. His car's in the driveway
   II. I stayed home from school because I was sick.
   III. The rich and famous tend not to be happy, well-adjusted personalities. Look at Michael Jackson.

   a. I only
   b. III only
   c. I and III
   d. I , II and III

5. In the following argument, figure out the implicit premise or the implicit conclusion.

   Nina told her mother that if her mother did not apologize, she would leave and never come home again. Nina's mother never apologized.

   I. Implicit premise: Nina apologized
   II. Implicit premise: Nina wants her mother to apologize
   III. Implicit premise: Nina does not want her mother to apologize.
   IV. Implicit conclusion: Therefore Nina left home and never came back again.
   V. Implicit conclusion: Therefore Nina did not leave home.

   a. I and IV
   b. II and IV
   c. II and V
   d. III and V

Continued....

6. Alicia is browsing through the Yahoo! Finance website. She reads through the list of headlines for the online articles. Which of the following headline suggests an argumentative article?

   a. Should you quit your job and take a year off to travel?
   b. The 7 dumbest way to borrow money.
   c. Lessons on investing form America's richest family.
   d. Average student debt in America reaches all-time high.

7. Which of the following is NOT an example of precising definition?

   a. *Wine* means a delectable drink, made from fermented grapes, that elevates the mind, frees the tongue, and warms the heart.
   b. An *arid region*, for purposes of this meteorological study, is any region that receives on average less than 15 inches of rain a year.
   c. *Larceny*, in legal terms, means the crime of taking the goods of another person without permission, with the intent of keeping them.
   d. *Alcohol abuser* means someone who consumes on average four or more alcoholic drinks a day.

8. Basketball players can earn millions of dollars in just one season. Football players can earn hundreds of thousand for just a 30-second TV commercial. Meanwhile a critical thinking lecture can't earn more than US $ 30, 000 a year doing one of the toughest jobs in the world. These saints work a lot harder than athletes and deserve to get paid a lot more for the miracles they perform. Who is more important – the person who thought you how to write a logical argument so you can succeed in life or the athlete who plays with a ball for a living?

   Which of the following accurately describes the preceding argument?

   I. It is a slippery slope argument.
   II. The author uses a dysphemism.
   III. The author uses interrogative question.
   IV. The author uses rhetorical question.

   a. I and III
   b. II and IV
   c. I only
   d. IV only

Continued....

9. Determine which is the most vague statement:

   a. The tsunami that struck Japan destroyed thousand of structures.
   b. The tsunami that struck Japan caused more than $20 billion loss.
   c. The tsunami that struck Japan caused tremendous destruction.
   d. The tsunami that struck Japan caused more than 50,000 structures totally or severly damaged

10. Every time a black cat crosses my path, I have a bad day. Thus, a black cat crossing my path is causing me to have a bad day.

    Which error has been committed in the above causal argument?

    a. Coincidental correlation.
    b. Overlooking a common cause.
    c. Wrong Direction: reversing cause and effect.
    d. There is no error in the above causal argument.

11. Fill in the blanks to complete the complete definition:

    "An *ad populum* fallacy is an attempt to ___(A)___ someone about something by ___(B)___ their ___(C)___ and ___(D)___ rather than by giving ___(E)___ that support the truth or falsity of their point of view."

    a. (A) convince; (B) altering; (C) belief; (D) thought; (E) anecdote.
    b. (A) encourage; (B) increasing; (C) assumption; (D) belief; (E) evidence.
    c. (A) persuade; (B) appealing to; (C) emotions; (D) prejudices; (E) reason.
    d. (A) encourage problem-solving for; (B) increasing; (C) creativity; (D) critical thinking; (E) solution.

12. "No one objects to a lawyer looking up a legal case during a trial. Why, then, shouldn't students be permitted to look up an answer during an exam?"
    This is an example of _____

    a. a false analogy
    b. a spurious correlation
    c. reference to authority
    d. begging the question fallacy

Continued....

Questions 13 is based on the short passage below:

> "When chimpanzees are exposed to rage, they tend to become violent. Humans are similar to chimpanzees, and therefore they tend to get violent when exposed to rage."

13. Which of the following is TRUE?

I. The passage is an example of a valid argument because the conclusion follows necessarily from the premise.
II. The passage is an example of an invalid argument because the conclusion follows probably from the premise.
III. The passage is an example of reasoning by analogy
IV. The passage is an example of an anecdote.

a. I and III
b. II and III
c. I only
d. IV only

14. Very few students in this university comes from Europe. Therefore,the student who is going to sit next to me in class next semester is unlikely to be a European.
This argument is:

a. Deductive.....valid, good
b. Deductive.....valid, bad
c. Inductive.....strong
d. Inductive.....weak

15. Which of the following BEST describes the argument below?

Premise 1: "All Malaysians can speak Arabic fluently."
Premise 2: "Ahmad is a Malaysian."
Conclusion: "Therefore, Ahmad can speak Arabic fluently."

a. A valid and good deductive argument
b. A valid but bad deductive argument
c. An invalid deductive argument
d. An invalid inductive argument

Continued....

16. Which of the following is NOT an advantage of using six thinking hats in generating solutions?

    a. It guides our thought processes in one direction at a time so we can effectively analyze issues, generate new ideas, and make decisions.
    b. It helps put our opinions aside so we can focus on a way forward, without disagreements.
    c. It focuses on rational decision and prevents emotion to be brought into decisions making.
    d. It helps members to see from a number of different points of view.

17. Robert is the owner of a small business employing 50 workers. He is trying to come up with ideas on how he can get the employees to reduce company's expenditure and thus cut cost for the company. He started the process by writing the word 'water' on the whiteboard and he tried to think of as many other words related to the word 'water'. He kept writing until an idea emerged.

    What technique did Robert use?

    a. Bionic
    b. Shift perspective
    c. Red hat thinking
    d. Free association

18. Which of the following is true about brainstorming?

    I. It must be done in a group and cannot be done individually.
    II. It helps to develop critical thinking because it encourages participants to judge ideas.
    III. The quantity of the ideas is emphasized over the quality.

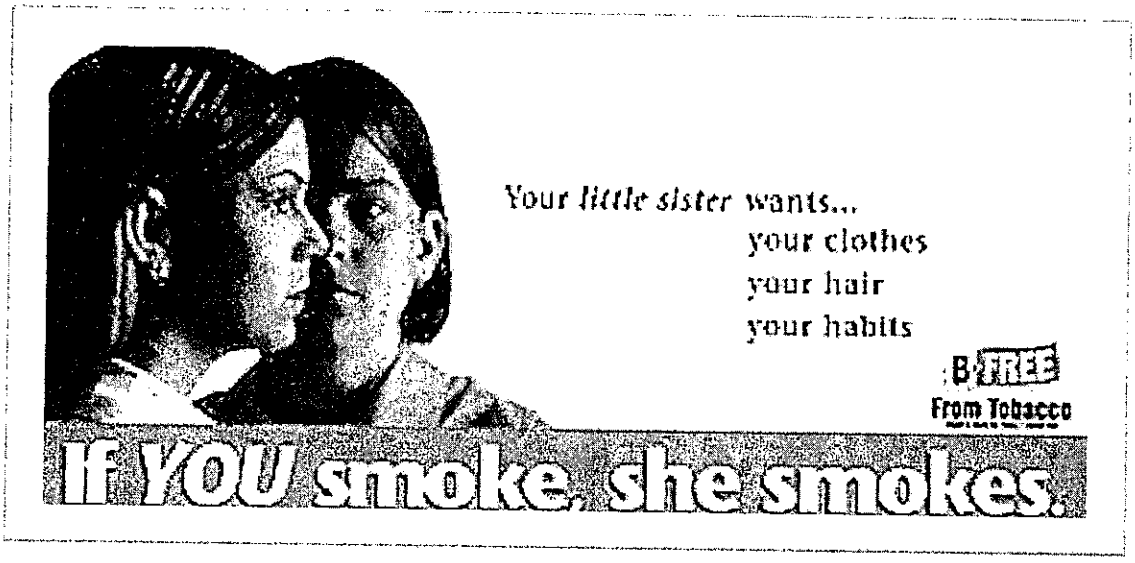
    a. I and II
    b. II and III
    c. I, II and III
    d. III only

Continued....

19. Weasel words are words or phrases used in advertising to:

a. water down or qualify a claim so that it says much less than it seems.
b. create a positive emotional response to the advertised product.
c. make meaningless comparisons with competing products.
d. create a simple way of gaining easy retrieval of information about the product from memory of the consumers.

Question 20 is based on the following image



20. The above anti-smoking campaign carries the followimg message:
Your little sister wants your clothes, your hair, your habits.
If you smoke, she smokes.

What advertising ploy is used by the above advertisement to influence readers?

a. Humor
b. Anxiety ads
c. Feel good ads
d. Fine-print disclaimer

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PART B: ANALYTICAL QUESTIONS (60 MARKS)

There are four questions in this section. Answer ALL questions
Write your answers in the answer booklet.

Question 1: SHORT ESSAY (10 marks)

You are doing an online research on the most effective way to lose weight. You have identified several websites as source of information. As a critical thinker, explain the criteria you would use to evaluate the sources.

Question 2: FALLACY IDENTIFICATION (10 marks)

Read the following arguments. In order to answer, you do not have to copy the questions. Just write down the name of the fallacy that applies in each argument.

For example:

"Anas is kind. He must be hard working too".
Answer: Sweeping generalization

a. "Well, we can either hire Rajes as our new Head of Finance or we can continue to have inaccurate accounting records. The choice is yours."
Identify the fallacy that applies to this example._____

b. Car salesman: "You should definitely buy this car. You look so good in it -- you look at least ten years younger behind that wheel."
Identify the fallacy that applies to this example._____

c. "My opponent suggests that lowering taxes will be a good idea -- this is coming from a woman who eats a pint of Baskin Robbins each night! Why should we listen to her?"
Identify the fallacy that applies to this example._____

Continued....

d. "Professor John Irwin, the distinguished mathematician, has argued that using animals in medical and scientific experiments is morally wrong. Given Professor Irwin's impressive credentials, we should conclude that using animals in medical and scientific experiments is morally wrong."
Identify the fallacy that applies to this example. _____

e. A couple of weeks ago, I received a chain letter that said bad luck would come my way if I did not send the letter on to at least 10 people I knew. I mumbled something about superstitious nonsense and threw the letter away. Bad move! The very next day I was attacked by a dog, got dumped by my girlfriend, and was fired from my job. Once is enough. You can bet that next time I get a chain letter, I will do exactly what it says.
Identify the fallacy that applies to this example._____

Question 3: ARGUMENT COMPOSITION (20 MARKS)

Read the following passage and answer the question that follows:

Education Ministry Urged to study Pros & Cons of Using Gadgets in the Classroom
By Amir Hamzah Nordin - September 9, 2018

The Education Ministry of Malaysia has been urged to review the use of electronic gadgets to improve learning and teaching in schools.

West Malaysia Teachers' Union president Jasni Md Kechik said the review would allow the ministry to ascertain the benefits or drawbacks of using such gadgets in classes. Jasni also said the ministry should outline a special guideline on the use of such gadgets for maintenance and to prevent abuse among others.

"In terms of teaching and learning, the use of such gadgets is beneficial. But there are factors that can lead to problems including maintenance and weak data connection. There should be enough infrastructures to support the use of such devices, suitable with the classroom environment and current needs," he said when contacted today.

Jasni said the French government have begun doing away the use of such gadgets this month due to numerous negative factors, including students' short span of attention in class, online bullying and unnecessary visits to certain websites.

Source: https://www.nst.com.my/news/nation/2018/09/409967/review-use-electronic-gadgets-schools

Continued....

Question:

Do you think gadgets like smartphones and tablets should be allowed in the classroom?

Write a brief argumentative essay to state your stand regarding the issue.

Your argument must contain the following "parts". Label each part with the code indicated below. (That is, after the conclusion, write 'C'; after your premises, write "P1"; "P2", etc.)

Include each of the following in your argument:

Part of the argument	label	marks
• Introductory sentence/background information	[Intro]	2 marks
• Conclusion/Main claim	[C]	2 marks
• Two PREMISES	[P1 and P2]	2 marks each (total 4)
• A reference to authority to support P1	[REF]	4 marks
• An anecdote to support P1	[ANEC]	4 marks
• A supporting argument which contains a RHETORICAL QUESTION to support P2	[RQ]	4 marks

(Note: To get full marks for this question, you need to write an argument which meets the standards of critical thinking)

Question 4: PROBLEM SOLVING (20 marks)

Instruction: Read the following passage and answer the questions which follow it.

Weighty issue for young Malaysians
by Ainul Huda Mohamed Saaid
8 May 2016

MALAYSIAN children and teenagers have a dietary problem that needs to be addressed immediately. Studies conducted by the Nutrition Society of Malaysia revealed that almost 30% of children and teenagers aged between six and 17 years are either overweight or obese.

"This is a problem and since it involves schoolchildren it is a cause for concern. If nothing is done now, it will still be a problem when they are adults," said the society's president Dr Tee E Siong.

According to the study, one out of four children skipped breakfast, which shows a lack of concern among parents over their children's eating habits and diet. Dr Tee said parents who were busy with their careers and other matters, were to be blamed as they were shirking their responsibilities.

Continued...

"It is this hands-off attitude, where they allow their children to eat what they want in school and at home, that has led their children to be in their current state. Many of them have no time to prepare a proper meal, leaving the task of cooking to their maids or relatives," he added.

Other factors include lack of physical activities. What is even more worrying, said Dr Tee is that weight issues not only affected those in urban areas but also rural areas. "We often think that rural children have a relaxed lifestyle with more time for outdoor activities, but this is not always the case. With parents and schools giving importance to academics, rural children are just as busy." Furthermore, with their packed daily schedules at school and extra classes, there is no time to play or engage in sports, he said.

Another reason for the lack of an active lifestyle could be due to safety reasons, added Dr Tee. Since parents have their own schedules and are unable to come home early, children are kept indoors, as they are afraid to let them play outside.

While obesity is a problem, forms of malnutrition such as stunting and wasting also exist among Malaysian children. Unicef Malaysia representative Marianne Clark-Hattingh said Malaysia is one of the countries in South-East Asia that has been facing dietary-related problems including malnutrition.

Quoting the latest statistics from the National Health and Morbidity Survey, Clark-Hattingh said over seven percent of children under the age of five were overweight. The survey also found that eight percent of children from the same age group suffered from malnutrition.

"The causes for overweight and under-nutrition are intertwined. The risk of being overweight goes up with increased access to junk food and drinks, eating food with high trans-fat or sugar content and low nutritional value. It also includes physical inactivity and a sedentary lifestyle," said Clark-Hattingh.

Malnutrition, she added delays growth in children. It causes them to be prone to illness and effects cognitive abilities, preventing them from reaching their true potential. "Likewise, obesity can also severely hamper a child's development and quality of life leading to secondary complications such as Type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular problems, asthma and sleeping disorders," she said.

Source:https://www.thestar.com.my/news/education/2016/05/08/weighty-issue-for-young-malaysians/#ga9REA5k5TVWHGsX.99

Questions:

a. Formulate a problem statement by identifying the expectation, reality and gap which exist in the issue above. (3 marks)

Continued...

b. Using Kepner-Tregoe Analysis, identify THREE (3) relevant questions that can assist you in analyzing the problem. For each question identified, explain the reason why the question is chosen (6 marks)

c. Describe how you would use the SCAMPER technique to generate solutions to the problem. Identify TWO possible solutions from this technique. (6 marks)

d. Analyse the advantages and disadvantages of the identified solutions above. (5 marks)

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